

Run CD 2,700

3/31/75

Nebraska Weekly Weather & Crop Report



Statistical Reporting Service, USDA
and U S Department of Commerce
Environmental Science Services Admin
National Weather Service

Nebraska Department of Agriculture
Division of Agr'l Statistics
Agricultural Extension Service
of Nebr College of Agriculture

Release 3/31/75

Week Ending 3/31/75

WEATHER

Precipitation was fairly general with the State receiving from a half to two inches of moisture. As much as 15 inches of snow was reported over the Panhandle and the northwestern section. Temperatures averaged about 10 to 15 degrees below normal.

GENERAL

Most of the storm was west of a line from Imperial to North Platte to Ainsworth with winds 40-60 mph. As of today nearly all roads are open except for a few back-roads or trails.

LIVESTOCK

Cattle losses from wind and snow haven't been determined yet, but some cattle losses are almost certain. It will be some time or until the snow melts before an accurate assessment can be made by farmers. The spring storm was especially bad because it struck in the middle of the calving season, and loss of young calves born during the storm is expected to be high. Following this storm some calf losses will result from pneumonia and scours. Many cattle drifted with the winds, going through fences and crossing roads. Most cattle are reported to have been fed.

Pasture and range feed conditions are reported short in 80% of the counties. Some cattle have been on stalk fields all winter and will be coming off shortly for spring fieldwork.

CROPS

Nebraska farmers and ranchers main activities this past week were caring for livestock, readying machinery for spring fieldwork, and applying some fertilizer where possible. So far, spring fieldwork has been delayed by the recent snow storms, high winds, or other climatic conditions. According to the county agents, only an average of 1.5 days were suitable for fieldwork during our survey period.

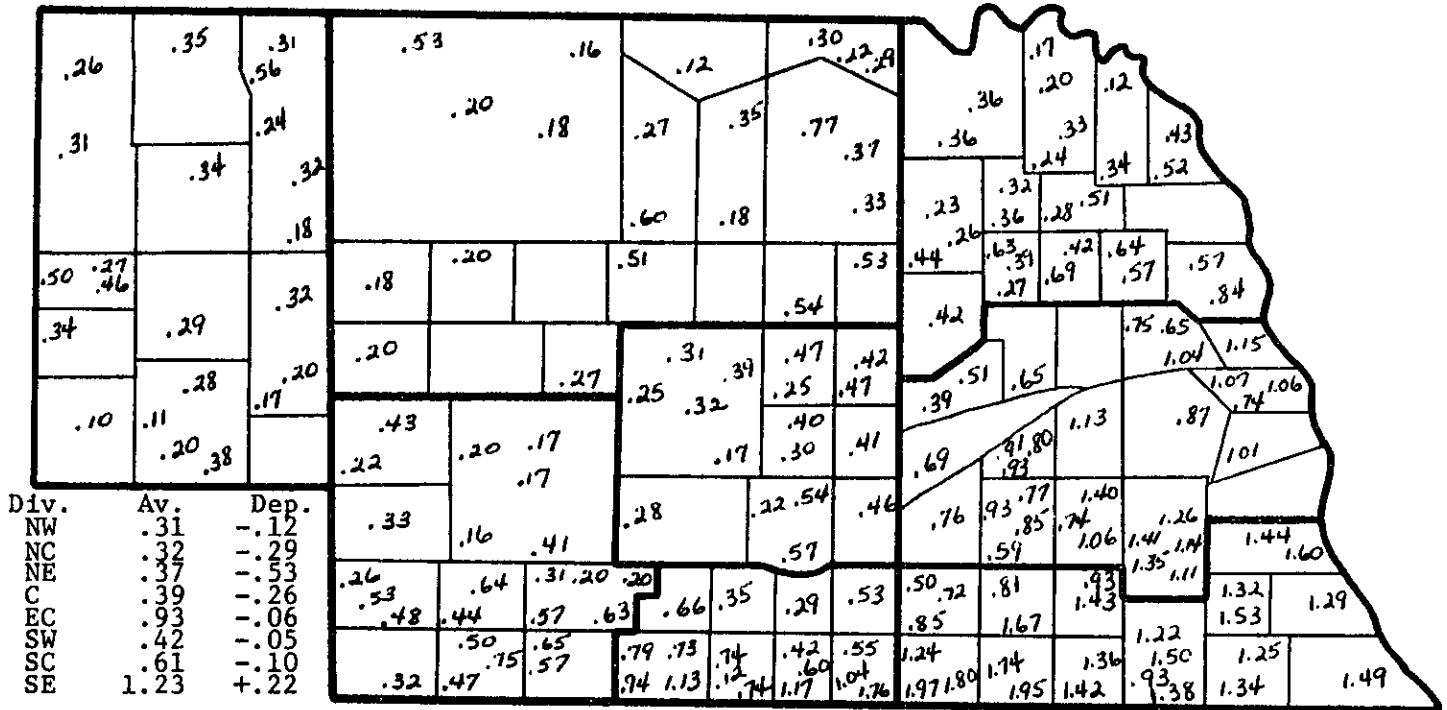
Topsoil moisture supplies were short in 45%, adequate in 49% and surplus in 6% of the counties reporting as of last Friday. Subsoil moisture is reported short in 90% of counties. Additional moisture is needed for wheat and pastures in most areas. Fertilizer for spring crops is reported to be adequate in nearly 80% of counties.

Winter wheat is in mostly poor to fair condition across the State. Some wheat fields in the western part of the State took a severe beating from the high winds, and farmers will not be able to assess the damage until they are able to inspect their fields. Wheat losses will be appraised as requests are made to the local ASCS offices. Disaster payments will be made through the local ASCS office where eligible after July 1. Other areas of the State reported spotty stands because of lack of moisture last fall and during the winter. Farmers are considering planting spring wheat, oats and other small grains in a number of counties.

Alfalfa and wild hay are both in mostly fair condition, with 4% reported in excellent condition for wild hay.

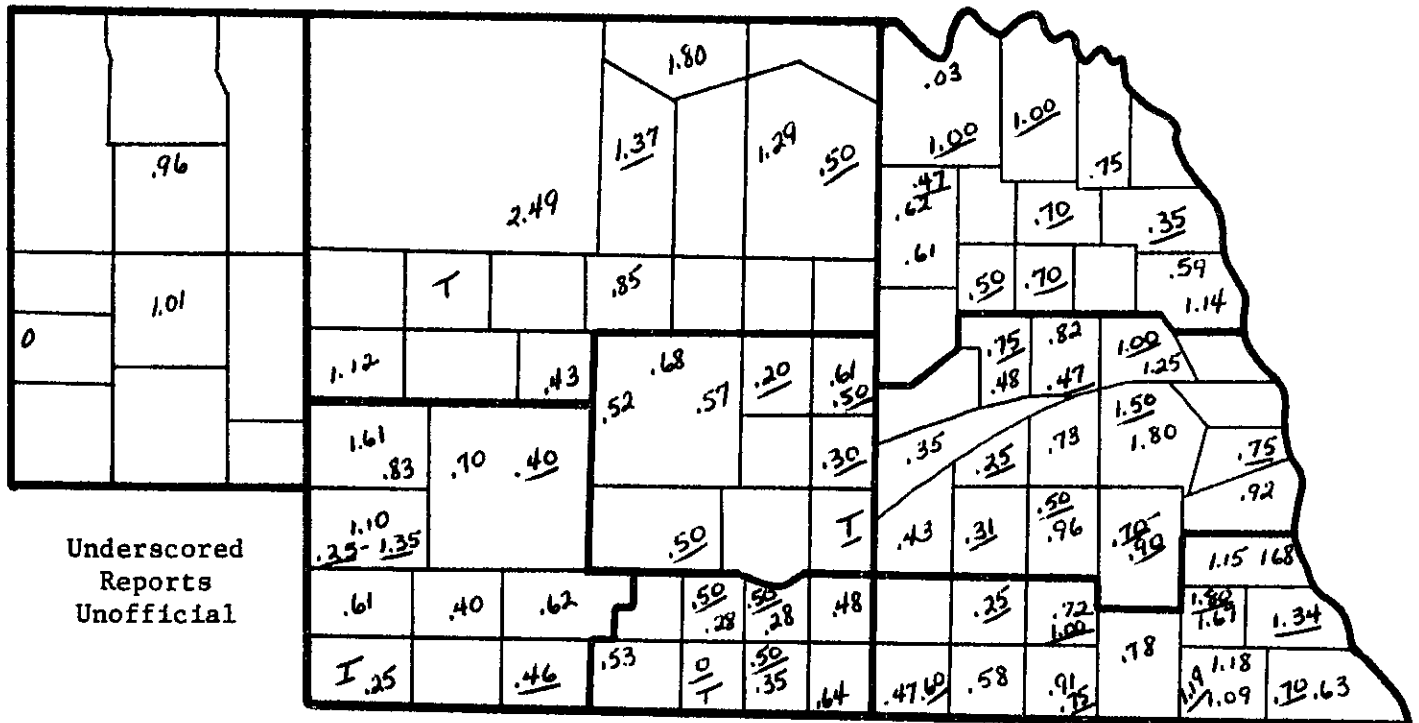
Sugar beet ground preparation is under way where possible and some are already seeded.

PRECIPITATION MAP FOR MONTH OF FEBRUARY 1975 1/



1/ Courtesy Conservation and Survey Division, University of Nebraska.

PRECIPITATION MAP FOR WEEK ENDING 6:00 A.M. SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 1975



TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA FOR WEEK ENDING 6:00 P.M. SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 1975

Station		Temperature				Precipitation
		Extremes		Mean	Departure	Total Inches 1/
		Max	Min			
NW	Chadron	52	-1	20	--	.52
	Scottsbluff	51	-4	22	-16	1.18
	Sidney	--	--	--	--	--
NC	Burwell	--	--	--	--	--
	Valentine	49	-2	18	-18	.53
NE	Norfolk	53	9	26	-12	.51
	Sioux City	45	13	27	-11	1.01
CEN	Grand Island	56	12	28	-12	.63
EC	Lincoln	58	14	30	-11	.81
	Omaha	51	12	30	-12	1.37
SW	Imperial	60	6	28	--	.45
	North Platte	56	8	27	-11	.39

1/ Precipitation totals not included in map above.